

S-E-C-R-E-T

24 January 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Bureau Chiefs

SUBJECT: Letter of Information

GENERAL

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1. Nigerian Coup: Following the 15 January army coup in Nigeria, the African Bureau was out of direct communication with FBIS Headquarters for nearly three days. Some hours after the coup, however, word was received from the U.S. Consul in Kaduna via Kano that all Americans were safe and well. A later message from Bureau Chief [ ] confirmed the staff's safety and reported that the African Bureau had temporarily suspended operations. Nigerian External Telecommunications (NET) in Lagos meanwhile had requested the bureau to cease transmissions on the day of the coup.

The decision to suspend operations was made on 16 January after a Nigerian Army officer, several soldiers, and a civilian P&T official entered the operations building, alleged that the bureau was transmitting directly to the United States, and warned that FBIS would be held responsible for any further "derogatory remarks" by the BBC or the Voice of America. Senior Editor [ ] denials and efforts to explain proved futile, and at one point a soldier pointed a submachine gun at him in a threatening gesture. Later, after several more visits to the station site by Nigerian soldiers and the temporary detention of the Bureau Engineer, [ ] the Bureau Chief and the U.S. Consul clarified FBIS' status in friendly talks with Major Nzeogwu, leader of the coup in Kaduna. The entire Bureau staff gave strong support to the Consulate during the crisis, and the services of the engineer were particularly valuable in establishing emergency communications between the Consulate and the Embassy in Lagos.

After further discussions with Major Nzeogwu, the bureau resumed operations on 18 January and sporadic communications were established between the African Bureau and FBIS Headquarters. During the ensuing days the bureau file returned to normal as censorship restrictions imposed in Lagos were clarified.

During the African Bureau's shut down, the East Coast Bureau and the BBC mounted an all-out coverage effort of audible West African transmitters to fill the temporary information gap. (SECRET)

2. Saigon Situation: In December Saigon experienced the highest rate of terrorism in the war thus far, with 33 terrorist incidents reported in one week alone. In view of this sharp increase, additional security measures were taken at the Embassy Annex which houses the FBIS offices. A sandbagged emplacement was constructed at the front door, additional Marine and Army guards were assigned to the building, and officers were instructed to stagger lunch hours to avoid large concentrations of people entering and leaving the annex. (SECRET)

Group 1

Excluded from automatic down-  
grading and declassification

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3. Mediterranean Bureau Developments: In talks between Mediterranean Bureau officers and an engineer from the Cyprus Ministry of Communications and Public Works it has become clear that the most favored route for a planned Karavas bypass road is between the bureau and the station residences. FBIS has made it known that this route would seriously restrict the usefulness of the bureau, and the FBIS objections will be given full consideration by the Government of Cyprus in its final decision on the bypass routing. Actual roadbuilding in the area is not likely to begin for a year. Meanwhile, the Cyprus National Guard has constructed two concrete pillboxes in the bureau's antenna field.

During the week of 17 January, the Director and Deputy Director, FBIS, and other staff officers met with U.S. Ambassador to Cyprus Taylor G. Belcher to discuss problems facing FBIS in the continued operation of the Mediterranean Bureau. The Ambassador reported that he had been advised by the President of the Cyprus House of Representatives not to seek a formal agreement on the American radio stations at this time in view of the feeling in the House about the U.S. vote against the pro-Greek Cypriot resolution approved by the U.N. General Assembly, but nevertheless the Cypriot Government will soon insist upon an annual payment for continuation of the present informal status. It was agreed that FBIS would attempt to work out with other interested Agency components--particularly the Office of Communications--an agreed Agency position to present to the State Department regarding the future of Agency activities on the island. Unfortunately, the Ambassador offered no hope of lifting of the restrictions on monitoring of MENA and Cairo broadcasts at the Mediterranean Bureau in the near future.

Schooling continues to be a serious problem for bureau employees. The Junior School in Nicosia advised the bureau that those monitors' children who were not accepted for the fall school term cannot be accepted for the winter term either. 50X1

4. Vietnam Peace Initiative: FBIS played an important and extensive role during December and early January in keeping the White House, the State Department and the intelligence community informed on related developments and reaction to the Administration's intensive diplomatic activities in search of a possible negotiated settlement to the Vietnam war. Field bureaus, the Wire, and the Daily Report branches joined in coordinating efforts to supply consumers with all relevant documentary material from communist and noncommunist sources. The volume of material carried by the Wire approached near-record proportions. On 6 January the Wire carried 58,087 words, the second highest count in FBIS history, and it is very probable that wordage for 4, 5, and 6 January, some 155,420, represented the highest consecutive three day total in FBIS history.

In response to a White House request, the Wire Service on 3 January began filing daily for the President's immediate attention an expanded FBIS Bulletin containing current bloc reaction to the peace initiative. The bulletin is especially tailored to facilitate its preparation for the President's office by

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the White House Situation Room. On 4 January the White House and other intelligence community recipients were supplied with the first available version, filed by the Okinawa Bureau, of the DRV Foreign Ministry's statement denouncing the "deceptive" U.S. peace offensive. This item was considered so urgent that it was taken directly to the President as it came off the Situation Room teleprinter.

The Okinawa and East Coast Bureaus and the Wire Services Branch were commended by the Director, FBIS, for their initiative and professional skill in handling an 18 December DRV statement and commentary denying that DRV leaders had indicated to two Italian professors that the country was interested in peace negotiations. The first available version, a VNA French transmission monitored by the Okinawa Bureau, was supplied in the original language and subsequently as an East Coast Bureau translation at the urgent request of the State Department for Secretary Rusk. The East Coast Bureau translation was patched directly through the FBIS wireroom to State. (SECRET)

5. Caribbean Bureau and TMU: A new team led by East Coast Bureau Monitor [ ] and including Panama Bureau Monitors [ ] and [ ] East Coast Bureau Electronic Specialist [ ] and Headquarters Teletypist [ ] took over the TMU operation at the end of December. Senior Editor [ ] will be assigned to the unit on TDY in late January. The TMU continues to cover the Santo Domingo and San Isidro radios in addition to a wide spectrum of Dominican commercial transmitters. A fourth Beverage antenna has been connected to the unit to improve coverage capability. 50X1 50X1 50X1 50X1 50X1

Bureau Chief Engineer [ ] has been assured by the Superintendent of the Ramey AFB Schools that an Air Force bus will transport American dependent schoolchildren from Mayaguez to Ramey. Extension of the high-voltage power line to the Cabo Rojo construction site was completed 15 December and planning for permanent bureau communications, to include a microwave circuit, is progressing. (UNCLASSIFIED) 50X1

6. Special Services: The FBIS Wire Service responded to a high-level State Department request that a 30 December Voice of Vietnam commentary be refiled operational immediate to the U.S. Embassies in Belgrade and Paris for use by Ambassadors Harriman and Goldberg respectively. The Wire also supplied to Mr. McGeorge Bundy by courier the text of a lengthy speech by the chairman of the NFLSV Central Committee 20 December. Excerpts were run on the Wire.

Tapes of voice recordings by U.S. Special Services NCO's Smith and McClure while held as POW's by the Viet Cong were requested by ACSI for G2 USARYIS in Okinawa. One tape was supplied by Saigon Bureau. An Agency component was provided all available material on the "Hanoi Hanna" broadcasts, including sample tapes and published items. One Agency office received FBIS permission to release

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for use by a U.S. television network a sequence of Havana videotape monitored by Key West Bureau, and another was serviced by RPD with material on the CPR position at the time of the negotiations ending the Korean War.

During Vice President Humphrey's visit to Japan, the Tokyo Bureau expeditiously processed pertinent Japanese press and Moscow radio comment in time to reach the Vice President before his departure from the United States. Other bureau material was used by the U.S. Embassy for his arrival briefing. The Okinawa Bureau filed to the U.S. Embassy, Seoul, all communist broadcast references to the Vice President's Far East visit. It was reported that FBIS material had been passed directly to the Vice President, who had shown "particularly keen interest." (SECRET)

7. Research Services: Other special services included responses to Agency and State Department requests for information about Chinese aid and volunteers for Vietnam, Soviet notes to the United States pertaining to the buzzing of Soviet ships near Vietnam, and the Shelepin delegation to the DRV. The War Themes file was drawn upon by the National Photographic Interpretation Center for references to nuclear-powered missiles. A representative of the Economic Bureau of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency was briefed on the War Themes file and RPD analysis of Soviet disarmament propaganda. USIA and Agency components were provided with data on such subjects as Soviet and CPR attention to Rhodesia, Soviet color television transmissions via satellite, and Moscow comment on the U.S. space rendezvous. (SECRET)

8. Lateral Services: Arrangements have been made to send to the U.S. Embassy in Djakarta FBIS-monitored items on Indonesia from CPR sources. The filing of items on Algeria to the American Embassy, Algiers, instituted temporarily in connection with the abortive Afro-Asian conference, was made a permanent service upon request. Appropriate bureaus have been requested to file to the American Embassy, Tunis, Peking items critical of President Bourguiba and reports of general developments in the Cairo trials of antiregime groups.

During December the Tokyo Bureau provided the Embassy in Djakarta with exclusive material on the 30 September Movement as published in Mainichi. The bureau, through the Tokyo Embassy, now services the Defense Information Library at Arlington Hall, Va., with Akahata's table of contents. At Saigon Bureau's request, the Okinawa Bureau is supplying Moscow and Peking program summaries to a consumer in Saigon for a psywar project. Several local Saigon consumers, including the Combined Intelligence Center Vietnam (CICV), have been added as recipients of RPD analyses.

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The London Bureau in late December began filing to the American Consulate General in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, Cairo reports of criticism of or physical attacks against British elements by Omani and Dhufari elements. The German Bureau now services the American Consulate, Frankfurt, with processed material from German Freedom Station 904. The East Coast Bureau has added the Commander, Antilles Defense Command, to its list of lateral consumers. (SECRET)

9. Use of FBIS Materials: A State Department cable, citing an FBIS report from Havana that Cuba had raised the National Front for the Liberation of South Vietnam Mission in Havana to embassy status, asked U.S. embassies if there had been any recent indications that any other NFLSV missions had been or were going to be raised to embassy rank or given diplomatic status. Other recent references to FBIS material included an exchange between the State Department and the Bangkok Embassy citing FBIS reports monitored from Phnom Penh, Hanoi, and Peking charging that U.S. planes sprayed toxic substances in Cambodia. In Leopoldville, acting on the basis of an FBIS-monitored Brazzaville radio report of an interview with Congo Leopoldville representative Bomboko, the U.S. Embassy queried Bomboko on the possibility of an exchange of ambassadors between the two Congos.

The introductory note to a Fawcett publishing company paperback, "Vietnam: History, Documents, and Opinions on a Major World Crisis," cites monitored radio broadcasts as a major source and notes that the U.S. Government agency which produces "this extremely valuable material" requests that it not be mentioned as a source.

Seventeen percent of the items appearing in the OCI Digest during December were based wholly or in part on items monitored by FBIS. (CONFIDENTIAL)

10. Briefings and Visits: A Headquarters briefing on FBIS was given to Lt. Col. George Cooper of the European Command. Key West Bureau Chief [ ] 50X1 while on TDY in Headquarters, discussed with OCR/Graphics Register [ ] 50X1 the handling of Havana television material and briefed FBIS staff members on developments at the bureau. Four staffers of the Far East Branch, Editorial Division were given a briefing in FDD's Asia Branch with the aim of improving coordination between FDD and FBIS.

Second Secretary Raymond J. Wach, who is responsible for distributing FBIS material in the Lagos Embassy, visited the African Bureau in December and expressed enthusiasm about the usefulness of its file. Visitors to the Mediterranean Bureau during December included Cyprus AID Director Fred Sligh, Roger Gilbert of the Canadian High Commission, and Kyrenia District Judge

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11. Supplements and Studies: A 6 January RPD Survey section on Vietnam was issued as a special supplement providing a documentary review and analysis of DRV, Viet Cong, CPR, USSR, and East Europe reaction to the U.S. peace initiative and the pause in air strikes against the DRV. A study of Radio Moscow's broadcasts in Quechua for Indian populations in Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, and northern Argentina was issued as Radio Propaganda Report RS 79. In early January the USSR and East Europe Daily Report issued two supplements: Czechoslovak Communist Party Theses and GDR State Council Chairman Walter Ulbricht's speech at the 11th SED Central Committee Plenum. (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

12. Chinese Transliteration: An Agency source has initiated procedures to standardize Chinese transliteration throughout the intelligence community, and as a step in this direction is disseminating to interested offices an identical set of five transliteration aids. Headquarters will distribute sets of these aids to all interested Headquarters and field components. Some progress has also been made through Agency channels toward standardizing transliteration of Tibetan personal and place names. (CONFIDENTIAL)

13. Hokkaido Housing: During December the four-unit apartment building turned over to the Hokkaido Bureau by the Army was occupied by FBIS families and the lease for private rental in the "900 Area" was terminated at year's end. With the Army vacating the Chitose I quarters, FBIS is again being charged for maintenance of the buildings it occupies. (UNCLASSIFIED)

14. Monitor Recruiting: Efforts by the American Embassy, Taiwan, to recruit Chinese monitors on behalf of FBIS netted some 60 applicants, 20 of whom appeared promising. Applications of the latter group are being forwarded to Okinawa Bureau for further screening. The Saigon Bureau has asked the U.S. Embassy in Vientiane to assist in recruiting a Lao/Thai monitor to replace one who recently resigned. (CONFIDENTIAL)

#### FIELD OPERATIONS AND ENGINEERING

15. Pacific Communications: The rerouted Tokyo-Washington allocated circuit via cable between Tokyo and Honolulu and radio on the final leg was placed in service 3 January, as scheduled. Despite the temporary 2A priority, the circuit still is subject to prolonged outages. The speed of the circuit was increased from 60 to 100 wpm on 12 January.

The allocated direct full-duplex circuit to Saigon, utilizing cable between Saigon and Honolulu and a radio circuit on the Honolulu-Washington

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leg, was activated 6 January. Performance has been quite good. This 11,000-mile link with Saigon, the longest direct circuit in the FBIS communications system, permits virtually instantaneous communication, though location of the terminal point in the Saigon Embassy communication section rather than in the bureau remains a limitation. FBIS bureaus in areas other than the Far East should use the relay address symbol SG to route traffic to Saigon via the new circuit. Bureaus in the Far East should use this method only in an emergency. (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

16. London Bureau Communications: There was some improvement on the Kaduna-Caversham circuit in December, with the number of overrun periods being the lowest recorded so far. The month was marked by a deterioration of communications from Cyprus, ascribed to poor propagation conditions. The London-to-Frankfurt circuit, previously one of the most troublesome, has been lately the bureau's most stable, and outages in December were negligible. (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

17. Broadcasting Developments: Radio Peking in mid-December expanded its Russian-language broadcasts to the USSR from 87 to 105 hours a week, including a daily continuous period of 12 hours. Peking has also introduced new high-powered mediumwave facilities, apparently in remote western China, to relay international broadcasts, primarily to the USSR, Mongolia, and India. Because of Peking's frequent use of repeat broadcasts, this expanded service so far has not outstripped FBIS' basic coverage capability, though limitations on processing remain. To date, no unique broadcasts have been identified on Peking's new mediumwave transmitters.

The Pathet Lao Radio on 1 January introduced two special daily broadcasts "for listeners living in areas under temporary control of the Americans and their henchmen." On 6 December the Thai Government reportedly opened a new 100-kilowatt broadcasting station in Nakorn Pathom province to combat communist radio propaganda heard in central Thailand. FBIS has been unable to confirm this by monitoring, and no additional Lao or Thai coverage is currently possible due to staff shortages.

The Rwanda Government has placed a new 50-kilowatt shortwave transmitter in service at Kigali for domestic broadcasts. Newscasts, including three in English for the first time, have been expanded from 8 to 20 a day. The Zambia Broadcasting Corporation was nationalized on 1 January and is now known as Radio Zambia. Zambia's Minister of Information announced that a 120-kilowatt transmitter will be placed in service during the first half of 1966. These developments should facilitate monitoring by the BBC in Nairobi. (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

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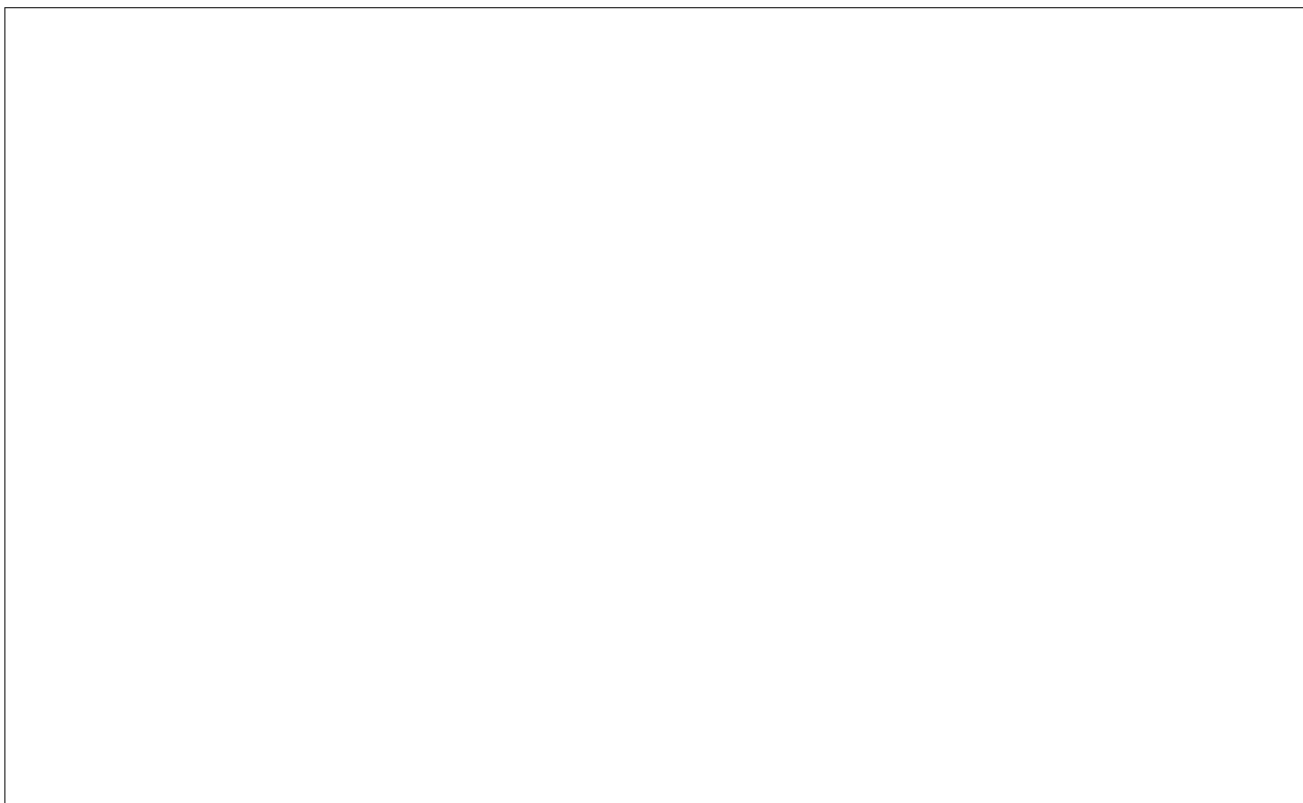
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ADMINISTRATION



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19. Regulatory Issuances. The following regulatory issuances were disseminated: (SECRET)



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## EDITORIAL

1. Editorial Guidance: A recent incident involving the gratuitous use of quotation marks in a voicecast report of a speech pointed up the dangers inherent in relying on the accuracy of ostensible quotes in voice material. A comparison of the radio report with a press text of the speech in question revealed that the voicecast version contained no verbatim quotes and consisted entirely of paraphrases. Editors are cautioned that quotation marks should be inserted in voicecast items only when: 1) the speaker explicitly indicates that the words or phrases are being quoted verbatim; 2) the monitor has no doubt as to the speaker's intent, indicated, for instance, by voice intonation; or 3) the sentence structure clearly indicates a shift from the third to the first or second person. (Example: He said, "I am unalterably opposed to this conference," and went on to add that he would not attend.) In cases of doubt, when the announcer does not explicitly state that the sentence or phrase is being quoted, the preferred method is to set off the presumed quotation as a complete sentence or passage, following a colon and without quotation marks.

Peking broadcasts should be checked monthly and repeat patterns reported in footnotes on the Peking commentary list. Once the verbatim repeat programs have been established, these programs should be listed with each commentary item along with the original program.

Compilers of the Peking list are also reminded that each program should be accounted for on the daily lists. If programs are unintelligible or listings are to be delayed, these facts should be reported in the footnotes.

2. Economic Abstracts Production: Production of economic abstracts in 1965 totaled 38,372 (34,021 USSR/EE and 4,351 Far East). Production by bureau is as follows: Hokkaido 12,532, London 9,938, Mediterranean 7,618, Austrian 3,962, Okinawa 2,680, and West Coast 1,642.

## ADMINISTRATION

3. Payroll Information: Because the T&As for overseas bureaus are processed by computer, it is most important that all entries on the "Pay this Period" line of Form 1027, Time & Attendance Report and Payroll Change Slip, be kept within the appropriate block. Any corrections made on this line must be legible.

### 4. Separations

#### From

	Branch Chief, Editorial Division (Retired) 50X1
	Editor, West Coast Bureau (Resigned)
	Monitor, East Coast Bureau (Retired)
	Typist, Editorial Division (Military Service)

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5. Temporary Duty in Headquarters

[redacted] Caribbean Bureau, consultation while on leave.  
- Key West Bureau, consultation while on leave.

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6. Honor Awards

[redacted] Mediterranean Bureau, Certificate of Merit

50X1

[redacted] East Coast Bureau, Certificate of Merit

50X1

50X1

ROGER G. SEELY

Director

Foreign Broadcast Information Service